

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

To: Members of the South Windsor Town Council

From: Michael Maniscalco, Town Manager

Subject: Town Manager's Report for 4/18/2022 Town Council Meeting

Date: April 12, 2022

Vibert Road Boat Launch- It has come to my attention that this has been a topic of conversation on social media. The challenge with the boat launch on our side of the river is that the channel for the Connecticut River is on the other side of the river which causes the eastern side of the river to silt in where our boat launch is located. In order to clear out the boat launch, a regular dredging effort of the river would need to occur. The Town does try to clean out the boat launch as best it can. Unfortunately, the Town equipment can only reach so far into the river and typically it silts in again after a few months. In order to undertake the dredging efforts, the Army Corp of Engineers would need to be willing to approve and possibly even conduct these efforts. That said, since there is minimal if any commercial boating on the northern sections of the river (past Hartford), the chances of that occurring are slim. With the purchase of the Scantic River property, we are going to be working on creating a Blueway that would connect with the Vibert Rd Boat Launch. Through these efforts, we are looking to further improve the location; however, residents need to understand that this area will most likely not be a full boat launch for power boats to launch without there being a change in the channel of the river.

Mary Drive Tennis Courts- The Town identified that the tennis courts on Mary Drive were in disrepair and created a potential hazard for children in the area. As a result, the Town removed the courts and will be planting and maintaining grass in the area until funding is available for a new court or another option is approved for the area. The Planning and Zoning Commission would need to approve any change of use in that location due to the way the subdivision was approved with a tennis court in the area.

Displaying of House Numbers- According to Article IV. Sec. 86-116, all structures within the community are required to be numbered. Whenever a new structure is being built, the building department will not issue a CO until it has a number clearly displayed on it. That said, over time we understand the numbers may fall off or may be removed and not replaced. The numbering of structures helps our first responders find you in an emergency. For this reason we are encouraging everyone to take the appropriate steps to make sure their home or office is numbered in the community.

Table Top Exercise- On April 5th the Town staff participated in a multi-disciplinary table top exercise. Both full time staff and volunteers worked together to find solutions and test plans to an emergency scenario provided by Texas A&M. The feedback from the observers was very positive and I heard from many of them that our community should feel very fortunate to have such a broad spectrum of extremely skilled and qualified individuals protecting our community. Staff are working on an after-action report and we are considering holding a real life drill in the future to further test and refine our systems.

Budget- I have been following the State Legislature as it relates to the budget process. It is looking like they may approve their budget on May 4th which is a day after the Council is supposed to approve the budget. According to the Charter we must approve the Town budget by May 22nd. With the possibility of the proposed car tax cap significantly impacting revenues for the Town, we may want to look at moving beyond the May 3rd date until we have a clear picture of what the State will do.

Beelzebub Road- The Town has been working on the Beelzebub Rd Replacement Project. Recently, we had a contractor and Town staff out removing trees that will make way for the road to widen in certain areas. We are also trying to work with the rest of the utilities to get them to finish up their work as fast as we can so that the actual road reconstruction and paving can occur.